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1870-09-04

Letter from Sarah [Muir Galloway] to Dan[iel H. Muir], 1870 Sep 4.

Sarah Muir Galloway

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Mount Hill Sept 4th /70

My Dear Brother Sam -

I have been
longing for a few words from your
pen for some time, and on seeing
one of your old letters to Mary I made
up my mind to sit down and
tell you so, I have been taking a
good look at your picture in my
Album, and I but want the more
to hear from you, Now I pray
you be pleased to sit down as
soon as you can find it convenient
and tell me all that you are doing
what all you intend to do, and so
satisfy your sister Sarah. Perhaps
you will be apt to say returning
the compliment - Well I have been
making a Red Spread, a Taut's
and a Lidy, and a Shirts & Skirts

Pier, Lake, Road & Bullen & me. &c
but I stop, otherwise I fear you would
be sorry I had committed my list
to see that you do better.

When have you heard from John? I
have not heard from him since for
some months, I wonder when he will
be able to make his escape from the
Galley he seems to be spent about the
how I wish he was home again to
gladden our hearts and eyes by his
presence, but you too when are you
going to make us a long visit? by the
way I have it some time ago that it was
possible you might be home soon, but
no. I think it must be ^{very} nice to
see you so not make your appearance.
Henry has been home and is gone again
she was here a few days, she looked
well and seemed to enjoy herself
exceedingly well, she has found a
very pleasant boarding place and
intends going to the University for

3rd

another year at least, she had a
very pleasant visit at Father's and
he even gave her a little of the needed
so that you may be sure she went
school-ward rejoicing more on
account of the good will than the
money. She has been taking another
drawing of the old Thomas Instrument

Sept. 18th

My Dear Brother how im pro per ing when
I write down my own mis er ies and I
will be so much that I will allow should
be so long delayed but one thing you
will be very is along and as life is
even at times unimportant trifles will
engage our closest attention to the
exclusion of the all important duties
to life. O my Dear Brother may our lives
not so pass but may we be enabled
to make some kind of mark as we
that it may be shown that we have not lived

in vain. I think we are too apt to forget that our each ~~small~~ influence that will tell on the character of those with whom we associate it may be for life. how careful then should we be about choosing our associates and that our influence may be for the good of those around us. David, Celia & I rode over to Father's yesterday the house seems very quiet & yet all seem comfortable and happy. Father ploughs his two acres a day and does his chores so you may be sure there is not much spare time with him but he looks well and seems to enjoy it. Mother looks well too and takes great pleasure in caring for her flowers and keeping the chips well raked up in the dooryard. It is a pretty place and she seems to enjoy the country around her in her own quiet way. Annie the only child at home was somewhat homesick after her busy life at Economouse but she has got her shawl on home; it is set

in her own pleasant room upstairs where she practices every day so she enjoys herself very well. Joanna is going to school in Portage just now she thinks of teaching this winter. I presume you have long ere this heard of Maggie's boy I wish you could see him, he is such a great & healthy child and such a pet you can guess how much comfort Maggie takes with him I trust he may be spoken to be a comfort to her and to help fill the vacant place occasioned by the death of her other child. John is still carrying on the mill stone but has taken John Foster as a partner in the business but J. F. still buys cattle hogs and I don't know what else so that J. R. has a share of the profits in that line too. David has had a good deal of worrying about his little Willie this summer a few weeks ago it seemed as though he could not live but he is again gaining slowly the other members of the family are well but I suppose

David is a good deal discouraged
about his business affairs he talks as
though he had not made his living
for some years back. I hope things may
take a turn upon him. He gets along
about as usual here. David always
finds something to keep himself very busy
our wheat crop like that of others is rather
poor but the corn is excellent our Archana
has done very well so and we have lots of
apples. but the Potato Bugs I never saw
any thing like it in my life we kept them
down with Paris green for some time but you
know after the potatoes were well along and as
they were growing pretty near the house
the bugs were swarming in every direction
we found them in every room of the house
now may be some we have been a while, if we
live to see another year the potatoes I planted at
all will be a good way off. I trust you are
well and enjoying your self but I suppose there
is no doubt that so long as you are near your
dear ones. Annie George & Lillie are well they
have had the whooping cough but have got
over it nicely. I must close. Love to you from
Sarah.

written to you once, and then
waited and waited and now,
thought - I, just to stir him up a
little, as Mother and the rest of us
are becoming uneasy on account
of his long silence, I will
again write; and besides, if you
are any like myself when away
from home you will be glad
to receive a letter from home.
any time and by any member
of the family; and "by the by" I
doubt not that you were duly
informed that, there is a new,
"side sprout," as John designates
them, on the old family tree.
As you will see from the date
of my letter, I am again a
resident of the old Hickory
Hill, and as I must inform
you the other Minerva olive
branches have all fled, and I
alone am left - to comfort

and cheer; I love to fill the
old home with sunshine and
smiles, or tears and sighs.
Heavy as you are probably aware
has been home, made us a
visit, and returned to Madison.
Joanna has gone to Portage to
the High School again; and I
expect to remain where I am all
winter at any rate, as I do not
think it is quite right to leave
Father and Mother alone; I
shall have my little collection
up here, and as I have taken
lessons long enough to start me
I expect it will help me to pass
many pleasant hours, and then
I will have my books &c. I
have been here alone just one
week, and after the sort of
life which I led in Leonore
I find this dreadful loneliness.
So for pity's sake write to me